



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**HOMELESS FELON SENTENCED,
SUGAR CREEK FELON PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a homeless felon was sentenced and a Sugar Creek, Mo., felon pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Alex W. Martinez**, 27, who is homeless, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to six years and eight months in federal prison without parole. **Martinez's** sentence was ordered to be served consecutively to his state sentence for robbery.

On June 24, 2004, **Martinez** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Martinez** admitted that he was in possession of a Browning Arms .38-caliber pistol on Dec. 5, 2003, in Kansas City. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Martinez** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for robbery.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **David R. Knutter**, 34, of Sugar Creek, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Knutter** admitted that he was in possession of a Remington .22-

caliber rifle on May 5, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Knutter** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for burglary and murder that occurred in 1989.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow